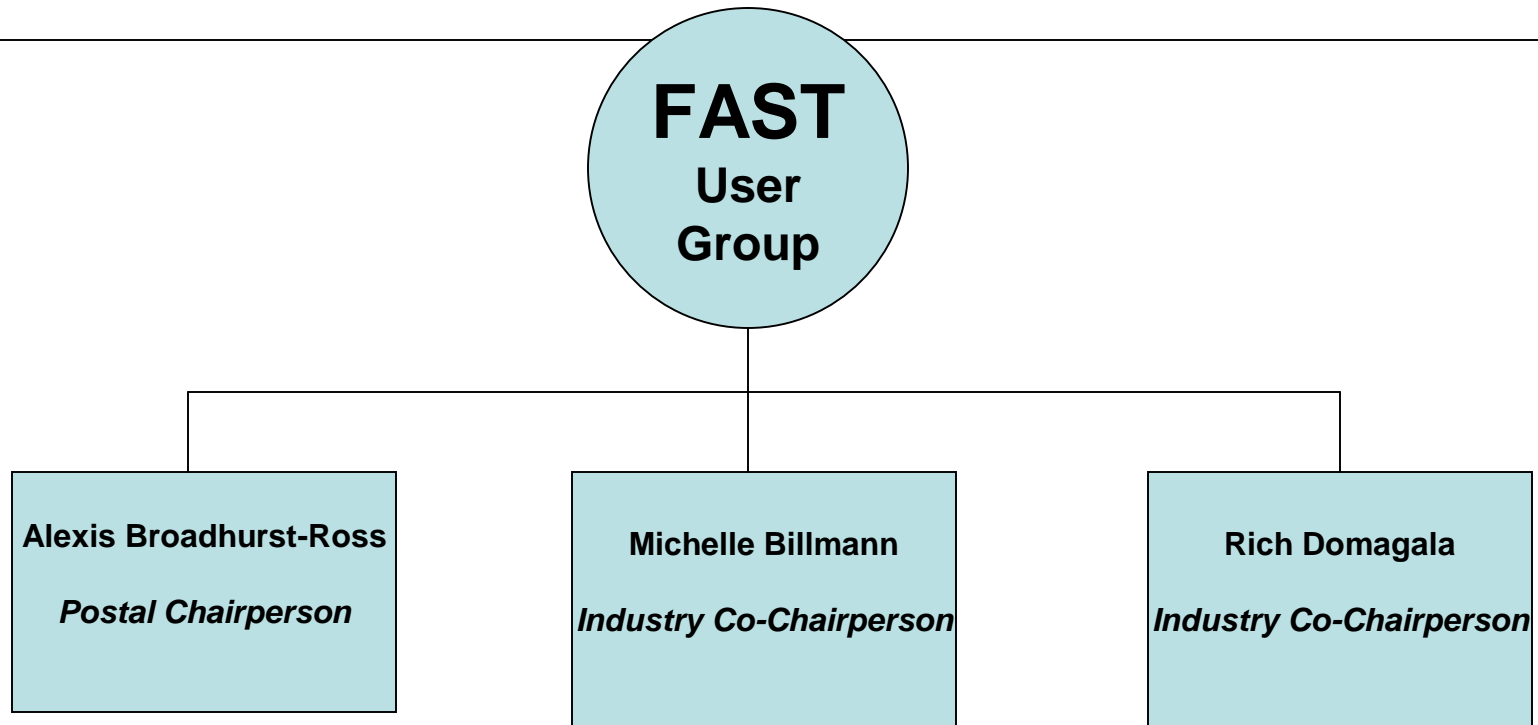




Mailer Technical Advisory Committee

December 1, 2011

Facility Access and Shipment Tracking (FAST)



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FAST User Group Purpose

- Serves as a collaborative platform for the USPS and commercial mailing industry to discuss system and operational related issues
- Also, serves as a forum to share new ideas and proposed enhancements
- During 2011, the FAST User Group began meeting on a monthly basis
- Attendance ranging from 50-100 members (including USPS Personnel and Industry Professionals)
- Change in schedule due to the successful completion of outstanding Issue List items

FAST User Group Purpose

- USPS FAST team members comprised of representative from internal stakeholder groups – FAST Business Team (*Mail Entry*), HQ FAST Operations, and FAST Application Support (*IT*)
- Issues are not officially marked as “Closed” until a consensus is reached among the industry that an acceptable solution has been reached
- USPS alert mailers of future FAST enhancements – providing system requirements summaries and demonstrations of new functionality
- Prior to any FAST release, a member of the FAST Business Team will present new application requirements and field questions / critiques from the industry

Accomplishments

- Since January 2011, the majority of **Open** issues on the FAST User Group Issues List have been successfully closed
- Any remaining **Open** issues mainly relate to the Mail Direction File enhancements; namely, file structure, process, and publication cycle
- A special MTAC Task Team (#11) has been created to expedite this process and ensure all stakeholders agree on the finalized solution
- MTAC Task Team (#11) “Revising Mail Preparation Parameters File Releases and Schedule to Minimize Costs and Service Impacts” will present an update today

Accomplishments

- The FAST Application Support Team (IT) has addressed system performance issues – added new application servers and upgraded to a LINUX platform
- Aforementioned enhancements have increased reliability and stability
- Mixed Periodicals (October 2011) functionality implemented with the support and direction of the FAST User Group

Accomplishments

- Recent FAST deployments include FAST Release 16.0 (*March 2011*), FAST Release 17.0 (*June 2011*), FAST Release 18.0 (*November 2011*)
- Upcoming deployments include FAST Release 19.0 (*January 2012*) and FAST Release 20.0 (*April 2012*)
- All requirements for releases have been communicated to the mailing industry through the FAST User Group
- FAST TEM process simplified

Outstanding Issues

- The FAST team will continue to field new questions and issues from the industry
- Complete enhancements to the Mail Direction File, pending recommendations from MTAC Task Team #11
- Next FAST User Group Meeting:
Wednesday, December 7 @ 3 pm/EST

FAST Contact Information

- FAST User Group
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